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BEDFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR 1943

BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary conditions prevailing in your district for the year 1943.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 10/44, dated February 15th, 1944.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	112,590
Population—	
Census for 1931	22,204
Estimated for mid-year of 1943	26,030
Number of inhabited houses for 1943	7,910
Rateable value	£133,620
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£562

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are those of Agriculture and Market Gardening. A few leather dressing factories have been established for some years at Harrold and Odell.

Along the River Ouse there are some mills which are used for grinding corn and making flour.

At Wymington and Podington many of the inhabitants earn their living by working in the boot factories at Rushden.

The health of the District is good and there is no trade carried on which is prejudicial to public health.

At Stewartby, Marston, Ridgmont and at Kempston Hardwick, there are large brickmaking companies which absorb a good number of men from the southern portion of your district.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

I have come across no instance where unemployment has had any adverse influence on the health or physique of the children or adults.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	*M.*	*F.*	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	364	193	171	Birth Rate 14.5 per 1,000 of the resident population
	Illegitimate ...	16	10	6	
Still Births	Legitimate ...	14	8	6	Birth Rate 15.1 per 1,000 births (live and still)
	Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	
Deaths		282	137	145	

giving a Death Rate of 10·8 per 1,000 of the resident population.

Birth Rate for England and Wales is 16·5

Death Rate for England and Wales is 12·1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.)

		Deaths	*Death Rate per* 1,000 *live and still births*
No. 29	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	0	0·0
No. 30	Other Puerperal Causes	1	2·5

Maternal Mortality for England and Wales.

Abortion with Sepsis ...	0·34	per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.
Abortion without Sepsis ...	0·11	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Puerperal Infections ...	0·39	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Others	1·45	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Infantile Mortality.

		M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—	Legitimate ...	10	6
	Illegitimate ...	0	0
	Total ...	10	6

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	42·1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43·9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	2

Causes of Death.

		M.	F.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	0	0
5	Diphtheria	1	0
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8	Syphilitic Diseases	3	0
9	Influenza	3	5
10	Measles	0	1
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0
12	Acute infective encephalitis	0	0
13	Cancer of buc.: cavity and œsophagus (M.) Uterus (F.)	4	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	6
15	Cancer of breast	0	6
16	Cancer of all other sites	16	9
17	Diabetes	0	3
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	19	16
19	Heart disease	26	32
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	4	2
21	Bronchitis	7	5
22	Pneumonia	4	6
23	Other respiratory diseases	0	2
24	Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	1	2
25	Diarrhœa (under two years)	0	2
26	Appendicitis	1	0
27	Other digestive diseases	3	4
28	Nephritis	4	1
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	0	0
30	Other maternal causes	0	1
31	Premature birth	4	2
32	Congenital malformations, Birth injuries and infantile diseases	4	3
33	Suicide	2	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	3	3
35	Other violent causes	1	3
36	All other causes	18	25
	All Causes	137	145

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i) Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.

Dr. W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ldn., D.P.H. Camb., D.M.R.E. Camb., Medical Officer of Health (part time to your Authority but whole time to the work of M.O.H.)

Mr. F. Lindley, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (whole time). Cert. Meat Inspection.

Mr. D. T. Matthews, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor (whole time).

Mr. C. G. Carlton, General Assistant to Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

(*a*) Examinations of pathological and bacteriological specimens have been made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, (evacuated to Gidea Park College, Essex) and also by the Bedford County Hospital.

The following were the cases examined:—

For Diphtheria	11
For Water Analysis	0

Ambulance Facilities.

(*b*) *For Infectious Diseases.* A motor Ambulance is kept at the Oakley Isolation Hospital.

For Non-Infectious Diseases. A Public Ambulance is kept at the Bedford Fire Station, and is available for your District. Telephone: 2222.

Judging from the experience of previous years, the present arrangement appears to be quite adequate for the needs of the district. In the event of an extra ambulance being required in an emergency, there is an understanding with the neighbouring authorities that their ambulances would be available.

Nursing in the Home.

(*c*) The Bedfordshire County Nursing Association supplies 14 nurses to 33 villages in your district. These nurses attend to midwifery and maternity cases principally, but also to minor medical and surgical ailments. They are not allowed to attend to any disease of an infectious nature.

The nurses are supervised by Local Associations.

The salaries for these nurses are raised by voluntary contributions, by small fees which are charged to non-members requiring their services and by a grant from the Bedford County Council.

The following are the villages supplied:—

Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting ...	Nurse Lamb
Felmersham, Pavenham and Radwell ...	Nurse Bamford
Podington, Wymington and Hinwick ...	Nurse Goosey, S.R.N.
Stevington and Bromham	Nurse MacDermott
Oakley and Clapham	Nurse Wilson
Milton Ernest, Bletsoe and Thurleigh ...	Nurse Maskey
Melchbourne, Yielden, Dean, Swineshead, Shelton and Riseley	Nurse Baines

Wootton	Nurse Dix
Kempston Rural	Nurses Minards and Clark
Stagsden	Nurse Prudden, S.R.N.
Harrold, Carlton and Odell	Nurse Owen, S.R.N.
Eaton Socon	Nurse Moore, S.R.N.
Keysoe, Bolnhurst, Little Staughton and Pertenhall	Nurse Wyndham, S.R.N.

Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made for the treatment of infectious diseases in the patient's own home. An Isolation Hospital for the treatment of these diseases is provided free of charge.

MIDWIVES.

The employment and registration of Midwives is undertaken by the County Council.

The number of Midwives practising in your area is 20, inclusive of 14 employed by the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(*d*) These are provided by the County Council.

The Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Kempston First Aid Post on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. and Friday at 10 a.m. ; at the British Legion Hall, Clapham, every Monday at 10 a.m. ; at the Institute, Eaton Socon, every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Chapel, Harrold, every other Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Church Hall, Sharnbrook, every other Thursday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Club, Stewartby, every Monday at 2.30 p.m.

The Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the Bedford County Hospital, Ampthill Road entrance. The times which the Medical Officer attends, are Wednesday, 5—7 p.m. and Fridays, 3—5 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Dispensary, Dent Road, Ivy Road, Bedford.

(*e*) HOSPITALS.

Hospital.	*Situation.*	*Purpose.*	*No. of Beds.*	*Management.*
Oakley Isolation ...	Clapham ...	Infectious Diseases ...	64 ...	... Joint Hospital Board.
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	Mogerhanger	Tuberculosis ...	84 ...	... C.C.
St. Peter's	Bedford ...	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children ...	104 ...	... C.C.
Beds. County Hospital	Bedford ...	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children ...	134 ...	... Voluntary
Children's Home ...	Kempston ...	Children ...	45 ...	... C.C.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section I.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

New Streets and Buildings.
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.
Slaughter Houses.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water.

Rainfall at Great Barford.
Altitude:—126 feet above sea level.
Latitude:—52° 9′ N. Longitude:—0° 20′ W.

1943 Month	Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches	Date	No. of days with .01″ or more	No. of days with .04″ or more
January	3·12	·53	31st	18	16
February ...	·66	·11	2nd	9	7
March	·79	·41	24th	7	5
April	·67	·15	21st	9	6
May	1·77	·57	24th	12	10
June	2·24	·51	7th	12	10
July	·68	·24	31st	8	6
August	1·48	·36	20th	13	11
September ...	1·27	·38	27th	11	9
October	1·61	·29	19th	11	11
November ...	1·07	·19	5th	17	12
December ...	·71	·42	18th	8	3
	16·07	·57		135	106

Rainfall at Wellingborough—at Swanspool Gardens.
Altitude:—168½ feet.
Diameter of gauge, 5 ins. Height of gauge above ground, 12 ins.
Latitude:—52° 17′ 54″ N. Longitude:—0° 41′ 23″ W.

Month	Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches	Date	No. of days with .01″ or more	No. of days with .04″ or more
January	3·49	·81	31st	21	15
February ...	·77	·23	8th	10	5
March	·80	·36	24th	8	4
April	·87	·21	27th	10	8
May	1·67	·45	24th	12	9
June	1·64	·54	7th	10	8
July	·65	·23	10th	7	6
August	1·91	·47	20th	15	10
September ...	1·41	·41	27th	10	8
October	1·83	·29	19th	14	10
November ...	1·27	·17	14th	15	13
December ...	·92	·48	18th	7	4
	17·23			139	100

Rainfall for previous ten years:—

Year	*Great Barford*	*Wellingborough Swanspool Gardens*	*England and Wales*
1933	16·93	17·45	29·3
1934	18·57	18·44	33·69
1935	24·57	27·79	40·14
1936	27·08	30·68	38·5
1937	29·93	30·41	39·1
1938	19·70	23·60	35·6
1939	25·51	30·51	40·3
1940	21·35	24·32	35·6
1941	22·11	27·63	33·8
1942	18·69	22·04	35·9
1943	16·07	17·23	33·4

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Arnold Whitchurch of Great Barford, and to Mr. R. Kilby of Wellingborough for supplying me with the information about the rainfalls of these districts.

The whole of the district is now supplied with good and wholesome water from public sources with the exception of some outlying farms.

I append the reports of the analysis of the three main supplies to your District, namely Bedford, Biggleswade and Birchmoor.

REPORTS:

BEDFORD.—During 1943 the analyses of the finally treated water which are carried out weekly, showed that in all cases the water was up to the highest drinking water standard.

BIGGLESWADE.—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is not unduly hard in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory, consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

MARSTON (Water from Birchmoor).—This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholewome water suitable for the purposes of public supply.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
(Mr. F. Lindley.)

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water Supply Report.

PARISH	*Population* 1931 *Census*	*Length of Mains* *Miles*	*Yards*	*Premises supplied*	*No. of Services*	*No. of Standposts*
Great Barford	775	2	939	74	64	23
Little Barford	75	1	549	4	4	2
Biddenham	454	1	1634	136	135	—
Bletsoe	214	4	462	10	10	7
Bolnhurst and Keysoe...	594	8	1364	64	63	39
Bromham	442	5	984	244	188	—
Cardington	328	1	1040	95	63	—
Carlton and Chellington	418	5	351	30	30	12
Clapham	811	3	174	483	224	14
Colmworth	265	2	1500	40	35	10
Cople	405	1	1577	92	68	9
Dean and Shelton ...	378	3	1432	29	28	16
Eastcotts	1146	3	174	30	24	11
Eaton Socon	2240	14	1462	288	205	52
Elstow	415	2	1573	126	73	—
Felmersham	381	2	1663	19	19	14
Harrold	924	1	904	53	50	21
Kempston Rural ...	694	11	323	202	167	21
Knotting and Souldrop..	275	4	40	27	23	9
Melchbourne and Yielden	310	5	676	24	22	12
Milton Ernest	340	4	1338	23	23	8
Oakley	508	4	1126	99	85	20
Odell	226	3	425	20	19	9
Pavenham	344	2	1114	40	40	11
Pertenhall	183	2	295	14	14	6
Podington	425	4	82	64	58	7
Ravensden	348	5	128	57	54	14
Renhold	475	9	58	229	216	1
Riseley	528	3	1003	45	39	17
Roxton	449	5	898	63	44	20
Sharnbrook	723	6	432	107	102	21
Stagsden	455	2	48	50	46	15
Staughton, Little ...	224	3	129	24	24	12
Stevington	479	2	286	41	40	12
Stewartby	895	1	494	20	14	—
Swineshead	124	1	728	16	15	6
Thurleigh	404	9	1035	40	38	22
Turvey	863	2	1563	26	23	18
Wilden	344	6	1148	38	37	15
Willington	428	3	332	35	34	13
Wilshamstead	675	6	6	142	130	20
Wootton	692	5	1041	171	159	41
Wymington	518	1	592	89	46	4
(Sandy and Tempsford Biggleswade R.D.C.)	—	3	876	—	—	—
	22204	188	558	3523	2786	584

1. (ii) Drainage and Sewerage Report.

In the Rural District 4,378 yards of open sewers were thoroughly cleansed and repaired in various Parishes.

2. Rivers and Streams.

During the year, complaints were notified of the pollution of streams and watercourses in five Parishes. In each case, effluents from sewage works belonging to Government Establishments were concerned and found to be discharging into practically dry water-courses with resultant pollution.

In my opinion the pollutions were due to the abnormal dry weather and overloading of the various sewage works. Representations were made to the appropriate Departments in each case.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

A water carriage system is in operation in the Parishes of Clapham, Wymington and Stewartby, and in parts of the Parishes of Eaton Socon, Eastcotts and Sharnbrook. The rest of the district has Water Closets (to cesspools) and Earth Closets.

3. (ii) Public Cleansing.

During the year the following materials have been salvaged by your Contractors and by voluntary organisations.

	Contractors		*Voluntary Organizations*		*Totals*		
	tons	*cwts.*	*tons*	*cwts.*	*tons*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*
Paper	55	7¼	84	8	139	15	1
Black Scrap	4	5	6	1	10	6	0
Lead		1		½		1	2
Textiles	3	19	8	8	12	7	0
Bones	3	3½	5	15	8	18	2
Brass		½	—	—			2
Rubber	5	16	3	3	8	19	0
Bottles and Jars ...	60 doz.		369 doz.			429 doz.	
Rabbit Skins	—		75			75	

3. (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Report of Nuisances.

1.	Defective and/or Blocked Drainage	27
2.	Defective Sinks and Wastes	29
3.	Defective Gullies and Surrounds	2
4.	No provision for proper drainage	1
5.	Cesspool Nuisances	19
6.	Defective Pumps	1
7.	Defective and Insanitary E.C.'s	86
8.	Defective W.C.'s	8
9.	Defective Wells	3
10.	Lack of or Defective Refuse Accommodation	14
11.	Offensive Accumulations	1
12.	Insanitary Ditches	9
13.	Defective Water Services	10
14.	Houses to re-decorate	3
15.	Blocked and/or Defective Sewers	2

16.	Houses not reasonably fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	443
	Defective Roofs	61
	Defective Floors (Boarded)	8
	Defective Floors (Brick)	6
	Damp and Defective Walls	9
	Defective Wall Plaster	14
	Defective Ceiling Plaster	26
	Defective Fences	3
	Defective Windows	32
	Defective Chimneys	22
	Defective Eaves Gutters	10
	Defective Paving Outside	4
	Defective Mantelpieces	4
	Defective Vent Pipes	1
	Defective Staircases	6
	Defective Grates	175
	Defective Outbuildings	3
	Defective Doors	12
	Defective Food Stores	3
	Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	4
	Defective Coppers	65
	Defective Rainwater Pipes	5
	Defective Paths and Gates	7
	Defective Hot Water Systems and/or Tanks	19
	Defective Rainwater Butts or Tanks	41
17.	Houses unfit for Human Habitation	4
18.	Houses inspected and recorded	16
19.	Cases of Infectious Disease	64
20.	Rooms Disinfected	68
21.	Infested Houses	3
22.	Rooms Disinfested	15
23.	Cowshed Nuisances	7
24.	Bakehouse Nuisances	—
25.	Slaughterhouse Nuisances	—

Summary of Matters Dealt With.

	Inspections	*Defects or Nuisances found*
Houses, Inspection of, Public Health and Housing Acts	497	540
Public Health Act Inspections	299	215
Factories, etc.	5	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	66	7
Slaughterhouses and Retail Shops	29	—
Houses, Inspection of, under Overcrowding Provisions	2	—
Inspections in connection with Water Scheme	566	6
	1464	768

Number of Notices served, Preliminary	61
,, ,, ,, ,, Statutory	4
Proceedings taken	0

Disinfection.

After all cases of notifiable infectious disease the rooms occupied by the patient are sealed off and disinfected with a dilute spray of formalin or by formaldehyde gas. 68 rooms were so treated in 1943. An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is made in each case and where necessary informal notices are served requiring any defects found to be remedied. The amount of bedding, clothing and other articles likely to retain infection, removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection, was:—

Camp Beds	2	Eiderdowns	1
Cushions	2	Pillows	14
Towels	2	Bolsters	1
Mattresses	11	Blankets	77
Sheets	3	Beds	6
		Miscellaneous ...	5

Petrol and Carbide Licences.

Number of Licences to store petrol and carbide granted during the year	17

3. (iv) Shops and Offices.

During the year 16 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934, and in every case the provisions of the Act were complied with. With tegard to Circular 1600, dealing with offices, no action has been found to be necessary.

3. (v) Camping Sites.

1.	Number of sites used for camping purposes	5
2.	Number of sites licensed by Local Authority	5
3.	Estimated maximum number of campers resident during the summer season	28

3. (vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action was found necessary during the year.

3. (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(*a*) There are no public baths in the area.

(*b*) In Stewartby there is a privately owned swimming bath.

The River Ouse runs through the district and bathing takes place along the banks in many Parishes.

3. (viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1.	No. of Council Houses infested	0
	No. of other houses infested	5
	No. of houses disinfested	5

2. Methods employed:

Skirting, picture rails, etc., loosened and sprayed with Zaldecide or rooms sealed and fumigated with Thermatox Fumigators. The above operations are repeated after several days.

3. Careful inspection of belongings of prospective tenants is made prior to occupation of new house.

4. Disinfestation carried out by Local Authority free.

5. Visits are made to ensure that the premises are being kept in a clean condition.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Building and Plans Report.

Number of Plans approved during the year		36
Number of Dwellings	13	
„ „ Additions and Alterations	6	
„ „ Garages	7	
„ „ Re-drainage Schemes	4	
„ „ Miscellaneous Buildings	4	
„ „ Farm Buildings	5	
„ „ Stores and Sheds	3	
Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year		0
Number of Inspections in connection with foundations ...		16
„ „ „ „ „ „ D.P.C.'s		11
„ „ Intermediate Inspections		157
„ „ Inspections of drains and testing		15
„ „ Final Inspections		6
„ „ Samples taken		8

Under the various Housing Acts, 488 Houses have been erected by this Council and the late Eaton Socon Rural District Council.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	443
	(*b*)	Number of inspections for the purpose	497
(2)	(*a*)	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing consolidated Regulations, 1925	16
	(*b*)	Number of inspections for the purpose	54
(3)		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	11

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 11

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:

(*a*) By Owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts 0

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 0

4. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

Owing to war conditions and to this being a Reception Area temporary overcrowding exists in some houses.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

Parishes	*Producers & Retailers*	*Producers*	*Retail Purveyors*	*Total*
Great Barford	4	2	1	7
Little Barford	1	0	0	1
Biddenham	1	3	1	5
Bletsoe	2	0	0	2
Bolnhurst and Keysoe ...	11	9	0	20
Bromham	2	2	2	6
Cardington	2	0	0	2
Carlton and Chellington..	7	4	0	11
Clapham	1	0	0	1
Colmworth	1	1	0	2
Cople	2	1	0	3
Dean and Shelton ...	6	0	0	6
Eastcotts	2	2	0	4
Eaton Socon	6	2	1	9
Elstow	2	5	0	7
Felmersham	7	2	0	9
Harrold	1	2	1	4
Kempston Rural ...	5	9	2	16
Knotting and Souldrop ..	3	5	0	8
Melchbourne and Yielden	3	3	0	6
Milton Ernest	1	4	2	7
Oakley	2	2	0	4
Odell	1	4	0	5
Pavenham	4	2	0	6
Pertenhall	6	2	0	8
Podington	6	4	0	10
Ravensden	4	4	0	8
Renhold	6	7	1	14
Riseley	6	1	0	7
Roxton	3	0	0	3
Sharnbrook	3	4	0	7
Stagsden	4	3	0	7
Little Staughton ...	3	4	0	7
Stevington	3	3	0	6
Stewartby	2	3	0	5
Swineshead	3	2	0	5
Thurleigh	5	3	0	8
Turvey	3	5	0	8
Wilden	3	5	0	8
Willington	0	0	1	1
Wilstead	6	10	0	16
Wootton	5	3	0	8
Wymington	2	3	0	5
	150	130	12	292

Number of Persons registered since 1900	706
,, ,, ,, now carrying on the trade	292
,, ,, ,, registered during the year	22
Licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
,, ,, ,, Accredited Milk	45
,, ,, sell Pasteurised Milk	3
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	66
Estimated number of Dairy Cows	2576

(*b*) Meat Inspection.

Conditions of Slaughter-houses	Good
Number of Slaughter-houses	18

Eighteen Slaughter-houses were licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and of these, 16 have retail shops attached. There is also one separate retail shop in the Parish of Wilstead.

Since the 15th January, 1940, the slaughter of animals and distribution of meat has been under the direct control of the Ministry of Food. As a result, no regular slaughtering is done in the 18 Slaughter-houses within the District.

Inspection of all meat distributed in the District is carried out at the central Slaughter-houses in the Borough of Bedford.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human food:—

108 lbs.	Meat.	224 lbs.	Cake.
367 ,,	Bacon.	85 ,,	Chocolate.
221 ,,	Meat Pies.	12 ,,	Mustard.
42 ,,	Meat in tins.	21 tins	Vegetables.
2692 ,,	Fish.	11 ,,	Fruit.
44 tins	Fish.	19 ,,	Milk.
60 lbs.	Cheese.	3	Miscellaneous tins of Food.

The above were not destroyed but used for animal feeding stuffs

Other Foods.

Number of Bakehouses	24
Want of Limewashing	—

FACTORIES.

1. Inspection of Factories.

Premises	*Inspections*	*Number of Written Notices*	*Occupiers Prosecuted*
Factories with mechanical power ...	5	—	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	—	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers premises)	0	—	—
	5	—	—

2. Defects Found in Factories.

Particulars	*Defects found*	*Defects remedied*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector*
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—
	—	—	—

There is no outwork in unwholesome premises.

(Signed) F. LINDLEY,
M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector,
Bedford Rural District Council.

The Sanitation and Water Supply of Elementary Schools.

School	Church of England or Council	Average Number of Pupils on Roll	Average Attendance	Type of Closet	Accommodation: Boys	Accommodation: Girls	Accommodation: Infants	Disposal Excreta	Water
Biddenham ..	C.E.	13	11	W.C.	1	2	1	Sewer	Main supply
Bletsoe ...	C.E.	25	23	Pail	1	1	2	Removed 5 times weekly	Main supply outside
Bolnhurst ...	C.	17	14	Pail	1	1	0	Drying Sheds once weekly	Main supply
Bromham ...	C.E.	75	64	Pail	2	2		Removed once weekly	Main at Schoolhouse
Cardington ..	C.	32	27	Pail	2	2	1	Drying Sheds once weekly	Main supply
Carlton ...	C.E.	38	32	Pail	2	2	0	Removed weekly	Main supply
Clapham ...	C.E.	151	119	W.C.	3	4	0	Sewer	Main supply
Colmworth ..	C.E.	37	31	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Cople ...	C.	39	35	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
Dean ...	C.	40	34	Pail	2	1	1	Twice weekly	Main supply
Eastcotts ...	C.	76	65	Pail	3	3		Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Eaton Socon.	C.	326	294	Pail	2	5	4	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Elstow ...	C.	183	156	W.C.	3	7	2	Sewer	Main supply
Felmersham .	C.	35	30	Pail	1	1	1	Drying Shed weekly	Main supply
Gt. Barford .	C.	77	68	Pail	2	3	1	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main supply
Harrold (Senior)	C.	59	49	W.C.	4	8	0	Sewer	Main supply
Harrold (Junior)	C.	80	69	W.C.	3	3	2	Sewer	Main supply
Kempston (Rural)	C.	77	67	Pail	2	3	0	Removed 5 times weekly	Taps from main
L. Staughton	C.	15	12	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
L. Barford ...	C.	14	12	Pail	1	2	0	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply
Keysoe ...	C.	53	45	Pail	2	2	1	Twice weekly	Main supply
Melchbourne	C.	8	7	Pail	1	1	0	Twice weekly	Main supply
Milton Ernest	C.E.	42	35	Pail	2	3		Removed thrice weekly	Main supply
Oakley ...	C.	48	39	W.C.	1	1	1	Hand-flushed to cesspool	Main supply
Odell ...	C.E.	15	13	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply

The Sanitation and Water Supply of Elementary Schools—*continued.*

School	*Church of England or Council*	*Average Number of Pupils on Roll*	*Average Attendance*	*Type of Closet*	*Accommodation*			*Disposal Excreta*	*Water*
					Boys	*Girls*	*Infants*		
Pavenham ...	C.	34	30	Pail	1	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
Pertenhall ...	C.E.	9	8	Pail	2	1	1	Buried once a week	Stand pipe from main supply
Podington ...	C.E.	42	33	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Ravensden ..	C.E.	49	41	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Renhold ...	C.E.	38	30	Pail	2	2	0	Removed 2-3 times weekly	Main supply
Riseley ...	C.E.	59	50	Pail	2	2	2	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Roxton ...	C.E.	66	56	Pail	1	1	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Sharnbrook ..	C.	106	88	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Swineshead ..	C.	15	13	Pail	1	3	0	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Souldrop ...	C.	26	23	Pail	2		2	Drying Shed Removed daily	Main supply
Stagsden ...	C.E.	50	43	Pail	4	4	0	Removed once weekly	Main supply
Stevington ...	C.	40	34	W.C.	2		3	Sewer	Main supply
Stewartby (Senior)	C.	100	91	W.C.	4	10	0	Sewer	Main supply
Stewartby (Junior)	C.	135	117	W.C.	3	6	2	Sewer	Main supply
Thurleigh ...	C.	48	40	Pail	3		3	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Turvey (Junior) ...	C.E.	40	31	Pail	2	4	4	Removed weekly	Main supply
Wilden ...	C.E.	37	29	Pail	1	1	2	Removed thrice weekly	Main supply
Willington ...	C.	54	46	W.C.	1	1	2	Hand-flushed to cesspool	Main supply
Wilstead (Mixed)	C.E.	65	54	Pail	2	3	0	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Wilstead (Infants)	C.E.	30	24	Pail	0	0	3	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply
Wootton (Mixed) ...	C.	127	110	Pail	2	5	0	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main supply
Wootton (Infants)	C.	41	32	Pail	0	0	6	Drying Shed weekly	Main supply
Wymington	C.E.	75	60	W.C.	2	3	0	Sewer	Main supply
Yelden ...	C.	23	18	Pail	1	1	1	Once weekly	Stand pipe from main supply

School Closures.

It was not necessary to close any of the Schools during 1943.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are treated at the Oakley Isolation Hospital, which is now administered by a Joint Hospital Board, comprised of members from the Bedford Borough Council, Bedford Rural District Council, and from the Kempston Urban District Council.

The accommodation is now 64 beds, allowing 2,000 square feet floor space for each bed and a cubical ward of eight beds.

Oakley Isolation Hospital.

Patients in hospital on January 1st, 1943:

Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	1
Typhoid	0

Admissions during the year:

Scarlet Fever	49
Diphtheria	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2
Erysipelas	0
Paratyphoid and Typhoid	1
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	1

Discharges:

Scarlet Fever	59
Diphtheria	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2
Erysipelas	0
Paratyphoid and Typhoid	1
Measles	3

Patients in hospital on December 31st, 1942:

Scarlet Fever	0
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	1

Small Pox.

I am glad to report that there have been no cases notified.

Scarlet Fever.

Sixty-two cases have been notified; 49 have been removed to the Isolation Hospital. These cases were distributed among 17 parishes, the largest number that occurred in any one parish was nine; these resided in Clapham. No deaths.

Diphtheria.

One case (aged 21) was notified and was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

A resident of this district died in another district; his death from Diphtheria was allocated to this district.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-eight cases were notified from 18 parishes.

Ten deaths were registered.

Erysipelas.

Four cases notified. All recovered.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case notified which recovered. One resident from this district died from " other causes " during childbirth; she was confined in another district.

Paratyphoid Fever.

One case was notified and was treated in the Isolation Hospital. This case recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Two cases notified; both were treated in Hospital and recovered.

Whooping Cough.

Thirty-three have been reported; they have occurred in nine parishes.

Measles.

Two hundred and seven cases were notified from 32 parishes.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified and completely recovered.

Catarrhal Jaundice.

Thirteen cases were notified.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria.

A number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year under review and during previous years.

I give details below; the children are divided into two groups:—

1. Children of school age.
2. Children under school age.

1. Children of School Age.

Number on School Rolls on January 1st, 1943 ...	3108
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, December 31st, 1943 ...	3088
	20

Number of children immunised on January 1st, 1943...	2705
,, ,, ,, ,, during the year ...	123
Total of immunised children	2828
Deduct approximate number of immunised children who have left school during the year, *i.e.*, 81% of 20	16
The number immunised at the school on December 31st	2812

Percentage of immunised on January 1st	81·0
,, ,, ,, ,, December 31st ...	81·8

I am satisfied with this result.

2. Children under School Age.

Estimated number at mid-year	1948
Number immunised January 1st	690
Deduct 40% of 388 children who have reached the age of five years	155
	535
Number immunised during the year	241
Number immunised on December 31st	776

Percentage of immunised on January 1st	39·5
,, ,, ,, ,, December 31st ...	39·9

There have been no cases of Diphtheria in this district among children under fifteen years of age during the year under review.

Non-Notifiable Diseases.

An outbreak of Chicken-Pox occurred in the parishes of Stevington, Kempston Rural, Bletsoe and Clapham. There were also cases of Mumps in Willington, Renhold, Biddenham and Stewartby.

The Scabies Order, 1941.

I have arranged for evacuated children to be admitted to St. Peter's Hospital to be cleansed and treated.

I have also arranged with the Borough of Bedford Authorities to cleanse all infected persons at one of their cleansing centres at the cost of 2/- per treatment. As a rule, two treatments are necessary. With regards to the cleansing of their clothes and blankets, I instruct the infected person or parent (if a child) to boil all linen or cotton sheets and under-clothing and air and iron all blankets and woollen under garments.

Sixty-five persons have been cleansed at the Bedford Cleansing Centre.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Age period	*Scarlet Fever*	*Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*	*Diphtheria*	*Pneumonia*	*Erysipelas*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*	*Whooping Cough*	*Measles*	*Para-Typhoid*	*Jaundice*	*Malaria*	*Opthalmia Neonatorum*
Total cases notified ...	62	2	1	28	4	1	33	207	1	13	1	1
Cases admitted to Hospital	49	2	1	7	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—
Total Deaths ...	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years...	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	13	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years...	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years...	5	—	—	1	—	—	2	15	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years	30	—	—	1	—	—	16	107	—	3	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years	12	—	—	1	1	—	3	35	—	1	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	3	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years	5	1	1	4	1	1	—	10	—	5	1	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years	—	—	—	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 65 and over	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis).

Villages	*Jaundice*	*Scarlet Fever*	*Cerebro Spinal Meningitis*	*Diphtheria*	*Pneumonia*	*Erysipelas*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*	*Whooping Cough*	*Measles*	*Typhoid*	*Opthalmia Neonatorum*	*Malaria*
Oakley	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Clapham	2	9	—	—	1	1	—	2	9	1	—	1
Eaton Socon ...	—	8	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
Bromham	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Elstow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Cardington	4	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
Cople	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
Wilstead	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Thurleigh	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	11	1	—	—	—
Renhold	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Bletsoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Felmersham	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—
Harrold	3	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Little Barford ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	—	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Stagsden	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wilden	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	—	—	—
Eastcotts	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Odell	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kempston	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Stewartby	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pertenhall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolnhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Podington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	3	—	—	—
Pavenham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Yeldon	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keysoe	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Wootton	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—
Turvey	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Wymington	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melchbourne ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Riseley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dean	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Little Staughton ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Milton Ernest ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Carlton	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biddenham	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	7	—	—	—
Ravensden	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
	13	62	2	1	28	4	1	33	207	1	1	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Villages.	New Cases. Pulmonary. M	New Cases. Pulmonary. F	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F	Deaths. Pulmonary. M	Deaths. Pulmonary. F	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary M	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary F
Eaton Socon	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Clapham	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Bromham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renhold	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elstow	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kempston	—	1*	—	1	—	—	—	—
Souldrop	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Biddenham	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Eastcotts	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lower Dean	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Chawston	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ...	1*†	4 1*†	3 2	6	4	1	1	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Period.	New Cases. Pulmonary. M	New Cases. Pulmonary. F	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F	Deaths. Pulmonary. M	Deaths. Pulmonary. F	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. M	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5 years to 10 years...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, 15 ,, ...	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
15 ,, 20 ,, ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 ,, 25 ,, ...	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 ,, 35 ,, ...	1	1*+2	—	1	—	1	—	—
35 ,, 45 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 ,, 55 ,, ...	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ,, 65 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1+4	1*+3	2	6	4	1	1	1

* Renotification.

Cancer.

There have been 49 deaths out of 282 from all causes, of these 24 were males and 25 females.

The various systems affected and the ages of each sex at death are as follows:—

Distribution of Males.

4	Cancer	cases	of	œsophagus and Buccal Cavity	ages 74, 48, 71, 93
4	,,	,,	,,	Stomach and Duodenum	ages 74, 69, 76, 68
16	,,	,,	,,	other sites ...	ages 77, 72, 73, 62, 63, 74, 47, 73, 66, 84, 58, 69, 64, 77, 80, 76

Distribution of Females.

4	Cancer	cases	of	Uterus and Buccal cavity	ages 71, 43, 53, 48
6	,,	,,	,,	Stomach and Duodenum	ages 59, 82, 58, 81, 57, 73
6	,,	,,	,,	Breast	ages 72, 62, 83, 52, 59, 68
9	,,	,,	,,	other sites	ages 66, 66, 49, 73, 67, 37, 37, 64, 57

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

No necessity for any action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

In Conclusion.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking your Council for their consideration and support, also your clerk, Mr. Townsend, for his ready assistance and advice, and your Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Lindley, for his valuable help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. PARBURY,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
D.P.H. (Camb.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.)

June, 1944.